cation of this information as it was necessary to get a correct idea of the working of the Marumakkathayam system in the country.

Reply.—If this information is required in connection with the introduction of certain changes in the Marumakkathayam law advocated by the speaker on Saturday, it will be obtained if found necessary. Information on these heads in regard to the people of the State as a whole has been already called for, but it is understood that it is not easy to compile the necessary statistics. Figures are however awaited. The statistics for any one particular community it would be much more difficult to obtain, and it is not clear what useful purpose it will serve unless in the direction indicated above.

89. Investing Zillah courts with the power of inspecting Munsiffs' courts.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karthavu (*Shertallay*) spoke on the desirability of empowering District judges to inspect Munsiffs' courts.

Reply.—It is desirable as in British India to confer such power on Zillah judges. Opportunity will be taken to consider this when amending the Civil Procedure Code. District judges are intermediate officers working close by Munsiffs' courts and it is their recommendations that will weigh with the High Court. It is also undesirable to cast this work wholly on the High Court.

90. Exemption of Mahomedans from attending courts on Fridays.

Mr. K. Kathir Pillai (*Alangad*) requested that Mahomedans might be exempted from attending courts on Fridays and other days observed as religious by them.

Reply.—This was brought up at the last session of the Assembly. The High Court considered the matter and found it impracticable to lay down any hard and fast rule. To exempt particular communities from attending courts on particular days would seriously affect the interests of business. Further, it is open to them to apply for and obtain temporary recess from the courts if they are to be engaged in court business during hours of prayer.

91. Exemption of Roman Catholic Christians from appearance in courts on obligatory religious days and the supply of Roman Catholic Bibles to courts.

Mr. Warkey John (*Travancore and Cochin Roman Catholic Association, Kottayam*) remarked that besides Sundays there were only 13

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